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# Newsletter



## GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

December 12, 1952

To the Faculty, Committee Members and others associated with the Graduate School:

### FROM MY VIEW

advances in world agriculture are directly related to improvements in graduate instruction in agricultural sciences in the South and the work of GS is closely tied in with both of these developments.

Last month I returned from Rome, where I served as chairman of the FAO coordinating committee, to attend the Land-Grant College Association in Washington. I had been asked to discuss the survey I am making of future graduate work in agriculture with the presidents and deans of the Land-Grant colleges in 14 Southern States. I wanted to get their reaction to the method I used in developing information in my recent visit with college officials in North Carolina and Georgia. Without any type of questionnaire, I am depending on my reportorial ability to determine the major factors, the principles, and potentialities that administrators and teachers feel must be taken into account. It was agreed that emphasis should be placed on principles rather than detail although more specific information may be needed as we progress with the survey.

My trip to Europe gave me an opportunity to see a number of old friends. In London, where I stopped two days en route to Rome, Eric Englund, now agricultural attache at the American Embassy, arranged a luncheon in my honor at the Farmers' Club, Whitehall. Guests were men I had met either in this country or at international meetings. They included Sir William Slater, Secretary of the Agricultural Research Council; Alexander King, in charge of British scientific missions abroad; Norman Wright, chief scientific advisor for the Ministry of Food; I. Galloway, in charge of the Foot and Mouth Research Station at Pirbright; A. N. Duckham, Assistant Minister of Agriculture; R. E. Stedman, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Food; G. A. Herklots, Secretary of Colonial agricultural research; Burton Baker, food and agricultural officer of the MSA mission to Britain; and E. O. Pollock of the International Wheat Agreement staff. I spent the second night at the Duckham home in Surrey. In Paris, I had an interesting two days with Omer W. Hermann, agricultural attache of the American Embassy in France.

#### **LETTERS FROM EMPLOYEES IN THE FIELD**

tell of a keen interest in our proposal to work out cooperative arrangements with the Land-Grant colleges and other institutions for courses on the order of those offered by GS. Here are quotations from two letters that are typical of many others I have received:

From Roy M. Wright, FHA supervisor with headquarters at Cameron, Texas: "I was pleasantly surprised and impressed that something is being done to provide in-service training for employees in the field. There is a great need for such training. It would help us render better service to 'grass roots' agriculture and also improve our attitude as employees. In my opinion we have had a feeling of being left out because such programs were not available to us. I hope your idea will meet with success."

From Earl C. Nichols, work unit conservationist, SCS, Clay Center, Kansas: "I feel there is much to be gained for field employees through continuing education in our Land-Grant colleges. I for one would like to get more training and will certainly appreciate anything you of the Graduate School can do to help us here in the field."

Announcement of our plan in USDA a few weeks ago has brought a number of inquiries and comments. Walter R. Horlacher, dean of the graduate school of Colorado A. & M. College, calls attention to the irrigation institute given at Colorado in two 4-week sessions each summer. Dean Horlacher points out that USDA and other Federal field employees working in irrigation projects are invited to take advantage of the institute.

#### **VARIOUS MOTIVES SEND ADULTS TO SCHOOL**

at night -- economic, social, and civic. The first annual report of the Fund for Adult Education indicates that more than a fifth of the 5 million students enrolled in adult education courses connected with the public schools in 1951 were registered in civics and public affairs courses. Some of these were taught by trained teachers but many were led by local officials, lawyers, and businessmen. The adult education movement, says this report, has only begun to draw in these non-academic individuals, qualified to teach because of their knowledge of subject matter, and it has only begun to reach the people, most of whom are still hardly aware of its existence.

#### **THE GOOD TEACHER,**

says George J. Stigler, Columbia University, is not distinguished by the breadth of his knowledge, by the lucidity of his exposition, or by the immediate reactions of his students. His fundamental task is not to dispense information, for in this role he is comparably inferior to the written word. His task is to fan the spark of genuine intellectual curiosity and to instill the conscience of a scholar-- to communicate the enormous adventure and the knightly conduct in the quest for knowledge.

### **AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISM**

in the opinion of Clyde H. Duncan, editor of RANCH AND FARM WORLD, Tulsa, Oklahoma, should be added to the list of subjects that can be strengthened through inter-university and inter-agency cooperation in graduate study at Southern colleges and universities. He suggests that this be given consideration in our work with the Southern Regional Education Board.

One area in which it seems to me journalism could be of special value would be to aid in creating an awareness of major problems American agriculture still faces and which must be better understood if the most effective use of natural resources is to be attained. This gets far beyond the "how to do it", "what he did", and "look what I did" approach. Rather it seeks objectively to sense and delineate the horizons toward which soundly trained men, utilizing all available tools and techniques could blaze trails and so mark them and define them, that others this year or a decade hence could follow intelligently and thereby achieve goals. In the light of exact knowledge this would command concentrated effort. Perhaps in this area, journalism and graduate study and research in the sciences basic to agriculture could find common ground, common understanding, and common sense.

### **THE 1952 4-H FOLLOWSHIP WINNERS**

are enrolled in GS courses. Rhonwya Lowry, Aden, Georgia, and William J. Kimball, Madison, Wisconsin devote about half of their time to the study of USDA activities and divide the remainder of their time between academic studies and a specific research problem in 4-H Club work. Miss Lowry, who has been a home demonstration agent in Cook County, Georgia, is a member of the class in cooperative extension education, "Basic Evaluation, Research Methods and Techniques." Mr. Kimball, a 1949 graduate of the University of Wisconsin, is taking course No. 7-695, "Problems in Cooperative Extension Education," under the guidance of Mary L. Collings.

### **INTERESTING READING**

will be found in two new books added to the GS collection on reserve in the USDA library. In ROADS TO AGREEMENT, Stuart Chase reports recent findings in techniques for dealing with conflict. He discusses the pioneer work of Kurt Lewin in experiments with authoritarian, democratic, and laissez-faire groups, the studies of group dynamics at Bethel, Maine, the Quaker meeting, worker participation in industries with successful labor relations, business conferences, and town meetings.

In THE NAVAHO DOOR, two physicians, Alexander and Dorothea Leighton report their research in living with the Navahos, travelling with them, visiting their schools and hospitals, and talking with the people who teach them, care for their sick, and administer their affairs.

## AMONG OURSELVES

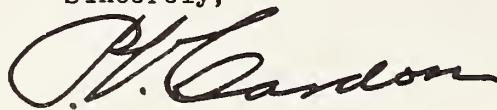
Teaching in GS has led to an interesting new assignment for Daniel M. Braum. He has accepted a position with the overseas branch of the University of Michigan. This will take him to Manila where he will serve as instructor in office management, work simplification, and related courses in in-service training at the University of Manila. A graduate of Kansas State, Mr. Braum joined the GS staff in 1942.

Jacob Ornstein of the Languages and Literature Department was the featured speaker at the first fall meeting of the D. C. chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Harry Mileham, associated with GS since 1947, has recently assumed the post of chief of publications in the USDA Office of Information.

Richard Fitzpatrick, who teaches the course, "Social Psychology of Communication" has written an article on training for international communications research to be published in a forthcoming issue of the Association of American colleges.

Sincerely,



Director